

REMARKS

Amendments

Claim 1 is amended in accordance with our proposed amendment submitted Aug 27, 2001, to restrict application of the method to a host predetermined to be at elevated risk of having or being predisposed to a particular ectodermal disorder. This embodiment is described, inter alia, in Examples IV and VI, and is intended to emphasize that the claims do not require that the practitioner make large numbers of clinical correlations, expressly requiring that the particular disorder be predetermined as applicable to the subject cell. New claims 22-23 further require that the recited TAJ gene or gene product is truncated, as exemplified in Tables 1 and 2 (p.3, line 16 - p.4, line 3; and p.4, line 31 - p.6, line 2). New claims 24-29 apply the limitation of claim 6 to additional dependent claims; and new claims 30-35 apply the limitation of claim 8 to additional dependent claims. These amendments introduce no new matter.

Election

Applicants elect Group I.

Claim Construction

All the claims expressly require the step of correlating the presence of the TAJ gene or gene product with the presence of or predisposition to an ectodermal disorder. Hence, all the claims are expressly limited to methods wherein the detected TAJ gene or gene product correlates with an ectodermal disorder. The claims do not encompass detecting a normal TAJ gene or gene product which detection does not correlate with an ectodermal disorder.

Applicants petition for any necessary extension of time pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a). The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayments associated with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 19-0750 (order no. UTSD:0680).

Respectfully submitted,
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY LAW GROUP



Richard Aron Osman, Ph.D., Reg. No. 36,627
Tel: (949) 218-1757; Fax: (949) 218-1767

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